

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-11

OMB-01 EB-07 ACDA-05 DHA-02 SAJ-01 SAM-01 EUR-12

AID-05 TRSE-00 OES-03 FEA-01 INT-05 /110 W

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R 190809Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5048

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD PLS PASS AMBASSADOR SNEIDER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT KS

SUBJECT: KIM YONG-SAM PRESS CONFERENCE

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: DURING NEW YEAR'S PRESS CONFERENCE JANUARY 17 NDP PRESIDENT KIM YONG-SAM OUTLINED PARTY POLICY ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DOMESTIC POLITICS AND ECONOMIC POLICY. IN PREPARED STATEMENT HE SAID NDP GUIDELINES FOR 1976 WILL BE "SETTLEMENT OF PEACE", "PROMOTION OF FREEDOM" AND "PROMOTION OF PUBLIC WELFARE". MINOR OPPOSITION PARTY LEADER YANG IL-TONG HELD PRESS CONFERENCE PREVIOUS DAY. PRESS GAVE EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO KIM'S REMARKS ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND ECONOMIC ISSUES WHILE EDITING-OUT MOST POLITICAL CRITICISM OF SYSTEM. END SUMMARY.

2. IN FOREIGN POLICY PORTION OF CONFERENCE KIM CALLED FOR "SETTLEMENT OF PEACE" ON PENINSULA URGING RESUMPTION SOUTH-NORTH DIALOGUE, SIX NATION N.E. ASIA PEACE CONFERENCE INCLUDING PRELIMINARY CONFERENCE BETWEEN U.S., PRC., NORTH KOREA AND ROK. KIM STRESSED IMPORTANCE FOR ROKG TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH PRC AND SOVIET UNION AND OFFERED USE OF "OPPOSITION DIPLOMACY" TO THIS CONFIDENTIAL

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END. IN ADDITION HE MENTIONED NEED OF SOLVING DOMESTIC HUMAN

RIGHTS PROBLEMS IN ORDER TO IMPROVE ATTITUDES OF ROK'S DEMOCRATIC ALLIES, THE U.S. AND JAPAN.

3. TURNING TO DOMESTIC POLITICS NDP LEADER SAID PARTY WILL STRIVE FOR "PROMOTION OF FREEDOM". KIM CLAIMED THERE IS NO POLITICS, "ONLY ADMINISTRATION" IN NATION AND DEMANDED:

- RESTORATION NORMAL POLITICS;
- REFORM OF "DOMESTIC SYSTEM" TO RESTORE DEMOCRACY;
- REPEAL OF EMERGENCY MEASURE NINE;
- RELEASE OF "DEMOCRATIC PERSONS AND STUDENTS" IN PRISON;
- END TO GOVERNMENT CONTROL OF PRESS.

NDP LEADER ALSO STATED THAT PARTY WILL CHALLENGE ANY ATTEMPT TO RESTRICT ASSEMBLY IMMUNITY OR PREVENT FREE PUBLIC REPORTING OF OPPOSITION ASSEMBLY SPEECHES.

4. KIM ATTACKED GOVERNMENT ON ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FRONTS; HE CALLED FOR SHIFT IN ECONOMIC EMPHASIS FROM DEVELOPMENT TO WELFARE. HIS PROPOSALS INCLUDED:

- TAX BENEFITS FOR LOW INCOME GROUP;
- MINIMUM WAGE;
- NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP SYSTEM;
- REDUCTION IN EDUCATIONAL EXPENSES;
- INCREASED GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR SMALL INDUSTRIES AND FARMERS;
- BETTER EFFORTS TO HALT INFLATION AND IMPROVE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS.

FINALLY HE STATED PEOPLE'S PERCEPTION OF GOVERNMENT AS CORRUPT IS CAUSED BY PROLONGED RULE OF PRESENT REGIME. KIM CALLED FOR PUNISHMENT OF THE CORRUPT NOTING THAT OFFICIALS SO FAR "PURGED" FEEL THEY ARE ONLY "WHIPPING BOYS".

5. ACCORDING TO KIM'S STATEMENT GOAL OF NDP REMAINS "PEACEFUL CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT". PARTY WILL STRUGGLE TO SEIZE POWER AS ALL TRUE POLITICAL PARTIES MUST. CITING NEED FOR STRONG LEADERSHIP HE CAUTIONED AGAINST OUTSIDE ATTEMPTS TO DISRUPT NATIONAL CONVENTION IN MAY AND SAID THAT HE WILL CONTINUE PLANS TO APPOINT NON-PARTISAN FIGURES TO NDP CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND CONFIDENTIAL

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POLITICAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS KIM SAID IMMEDIATE PLANS INCLUDE VISIT TO JAPAN FEBRUARY 6 AT INVITATION OF DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST PARTY.

6. PRESS GAVE EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO KIM'S CONFERENCE WITH EMPHASIS ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND ECONOMICS. IN DOMESTIC AREA SELECTIVE OMISSIONS WERE EXTENSIVE. FOR EXAMPLE, THERE WERE NO REPORTS OF CALL FOR REPEAL EMERGENCY MEASURE, RELEASE OF PRISONERS,

OR FREEDOM OF PRESS. STRUGGLE FOR RESTORATION OF DEMOCRACY WAS REPORTED AS EFFORTS FOR "REALIZATION" OF DEMOCRACY. DEMANDS FOR ASSEMBLY RIGHTS AND IMMUNITIES REPORTED AS "STRENGTHENING PARLIAMENTARY FUNCTION".

7. ON JANUARY 16 DEMOCRATIC UNIFICATION PARTY LEADER HELD PRESS CONFERENCE AT WHICH HE DEMANDED AMONG OTHER THINGS CREATION OF NUCLEAR FREE ZONE IN KOREA, REPEAL OF EMERGENCY MEASURE NINE, CHANGE IN POLITICAL SYSTEM, ABOLITION OF YUCHONGHOE, NEW ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS AND FREEDOM OF PRESS. ASKED ABOUT RECENTLY REPORTED OIL FIND YANG SAID, "ONLY A MIRACLE CAN PRODUCE OIL FROM YONGIL BAY". PRESS TOOK LITTLE NOTE OF YANG'S REMARKS AND AS WITH KIM YONG-SAM DID NOT REPORT PORTIONS OBJECTIONABLE TO ROKG.

8. DRP SPOKESMAN HAS TAKEN KIM TO TASK FOR BEING OBSESSED WITH "OLD-FASHIONED POLITICAL THEORIES". YUCHONGHOE SPOKESMAN SAID KIM YONG-SAM EXPRESSED UNWHOLESOME CRITICISM OF GOVERNMENT POLICIES; HE SAID NOW THAT YUSHIN IS FIRMLY ROOTED ONLY THOSE WHO DESIRE CHAOS AND LICENSE CAN BE TROUBLED WITH THE SYSTEM.

9. COMMENT: GIVEN CONSTRAINTS OF EMERGENCY MEASURE NINE, KIM YONG-SAM HAS GONE RELATIVELY FAR IN CRITICISM OF SYSTEM--FURTHER WE NOTE THAN IN HIS COMPROMISING ACTIONS DURING LAST FALL'S ASSEMBLY SESSIONS. HOWEVER, HIS TONE WAS MODERATE AND SELECTIVE REPORTING BY PRESS, WITH EMPHASIS ON FOREIGN POLICY AND ECONOMICS, NEGATES IMPACT OF ATTACK. END RESULT IS TO ENABLE KIM TO POLISH IMAGE FOR PARTY CONSUMPTION WITHOUT UNDULY TROUBLING GOVERNMENT.
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